

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 99-3-29**

Date Prepared: March 25, 1999
For Work Week Commencing: March 29, 1999
Business Meeting: March 29, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. D98.6.127 – Havre Pipeline – Discuss Petition by Black Hills for late intervention (3/30/99)
2. D97.7.90 – MPC – MPC's Request to Extend Terms of Accounting Orders Approved in Order 5986d – To act on MPC's request (3/30/99)
3. D99.2.29 – MDU – MDU universal system benefits charges – Discuss March 15 letter from MDU regarding judicial review of Order 6143 (3/30/99)
4. N99.3.52 – Montana School Board Association electricity supplier license application – Discuss/act on application (3/30/99)
5. Commission direction to present a plan to investigate trouble reports - To review a plan (3/30/99)
6. Dialing Parity Plans – To Discuss changes required by the recent FCC order (3/30/99)

Legislative Meeting – Will be held at 9:30 am on the day of the Business Meeting.

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.3.58 (Vicki)

On March 11, 1999, US West filed tariff pages to introduce a promotional offering for Digital Switched Services (DSS) trunks. The offering allows current PBX analog trunk customers to upgrade to Basic DSS with a waiver of the non-recurring DSS Basic trunk charges when entering into a 3 or 5 year rate stability agreement. During the promotion period, the non-recurring charge for Basic DSS facility and common equipment will be waived for customers who enter into a 5 year rate stability agreement. The waiver is available on services ordered during the promotional period of 90 days beginning on April 5, 1999. The installation must be completed by October 1, 1999, which gives the customer time to convert to digital CPE if necessary.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.3.60 (Kate)

On March 16, 1999, US West filed to introduce Residential WinBack, which will allow the company to offer waivers of charges up to \$100 to customers who return to US West from a competitor. The tariff will expire in 6 months.

2. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.3.61 (Kate)

On March 16, 1999, US West filed to introduce Business WinBack, which will allow the company to offer waivers of charges to customers who return to US West from a competitor. Customers who receive the benefit of WinBack must stay with US West for at least one year or be billed all of the charges that were waived. The tariff will expire in 6 months.

3. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.3.59 (Tina)

On March 16, 1999, Sprint Communications filed changes to its Montana PSC Price List No. 1. The purpose of the filing is to change the minimum billing increment for Business Sense customers from 18 seconds to 30 seconds.

4. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY – Docket N99.3.70 (Vicki)

On March 22, 1999, Sprint filed tariff pages to make language changes to Sprint Sense Residential Toll Free and to introduce Sprint Business Flex SDS Toll Free language.

5. ENERGY WEST INC. N99.3.64 (Wendy)

On March 18, 1999, Energy West Montana (Energy West), formally known as Great Falls Gas Company, filed an application to correct tariff language in their Special Service and Negotiated Contract tariffs. These changes stem from mistakes on the proposed tariffs in D98.3.68, Energy West's application to offer open access on its system. Two changes are proposed. First, Energy West proposes to correct the definition of, and the tariffed rate for, damaged meters. The tariff pages approved in D98.3.68 replaced the appropriate definition and changed the rate to \$25, from the previously tariffed rate of \$135. Energy West maintains that they did not intend to change the rate or language in this tariff and would like to reinstate the previous rate and definition. Second, Energy West proposes to remove obsolete language in their Negotiated Contract service. The language refers to the marginal cost of gas; however, the NCS tariff is now used for transportation customers who purchase their own gas directly from suppliers.

6. CENTURY TEL of MT dba CENTURYTEL – Docket N99.3.71(Nina)

On March 22, 1999, Century Tel filed Tariff Advice No. 99-2, to introduce Unattended Group Teleconference Service. This new service allows a customer to subscribe to telephone company conferencing ports for use in teleconferencing services. The customer sells the teleconferencing services to participants who dial a predetermined telephone number and are automatically joined in a "Meet Me" group teleconference call with other participants dialing the same telephone number.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N99.3.74 (Kate)

On March 24, 1999, US West Communications filed an application requesting forbearance regarding its offer to provide Digital Switched Services to the Glendive Medical Clinic in accordance with Section 69-3-808, MCA, and ARM 38.5.2715. The application was automatically granted one day after filing because it was complete and was served properly. This is an informational item only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-4-5

Energy West Inc N99.3.64 (Wendy)

Sprint Communications N99.3.70 (Vicki)

Sprint Communications N99.3.59 (Tina)

USWC N99.3.60 (Kate)

USWC N99.3.61 (Kate)

CenturyTel N99.3.71 (Nina)

New Filings Received in Past Week

D99.3.63 MDU – Tongue River Electric Service Area Agreement

N99.3.64 Energy West – Tariff corrections

D99.3.65 MDU – McCone Electric Service Area Agreement

D99.3.66 MDU – Golden West Electric Service Area Agreement

D99.3.67 MDU – Lower Yellowstone Electric Service Area Agreement

D99.3.68 USWC – USWC/Covad Interconnection agreement

D99.3.69 Black Hills Power & Light – Fuel Rate Rider

N99.3.70 Sprint – Tariff text changes & introduce SDS

N99.3.71 CenturyTel – Tariff to introduce unattended teleconference service

D99.3.72 Seeley Lake Gas – Sale & Transfer to Cenex

D99.3.73 PSC – Summit Group request for master meter rule waiver

N99.3.74 USWC – Forbearance Application